

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS
FACULTY SENATE

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 10, 2026 - 3:30pm-5:00pm,
CSRB 563

Those present included: (*Proxies**)

Allied Health: Brandon Walker, Brittany Hall, Amber Weydert, Stephanie Eschete, Luther Gill

Dentistry: Thomas Lallier, Eugene Antenucci, Meric Karapinar-Kazandag, A.C. Liles, Diedra Brewer-Hohensee

Graduate Studies: Sonia Gasparini (and proxy for Andrew Catling)

Medicine: Viliija Vaitaitis (proxy for Allison Augustus-Wallace), Jennifer Cameron, Brian Lochlann McGee, Maria Reinoso, Jennifer Hart, , Laura Pelaez, Michelle Korah-Sedgwick

Nursing: Laura Bonanno, Collen Story (and proxy for Jolie Harris), Quinn Lacey (proxy for Jessica Teeter)

Public Health: Mei-Chin Hsieh, Susanne Straif-Bourgeois, Tung-Sung Tseng, William Robinson, Chih-yang Hu

Library: Sharon Duffy

Ex-Officio: Rebecca Bealer, Michael Boutte, Shelly Dolan

Absent with Proxy: Jolie Harris, Jessica Teeter, Andrew Catling, Allison Augustus-Wallace

Not present: Suresh Alahari

I. Welcome and Call to Order by President Cameron at 3:31 PM

II. Introduction of Special Guest(s)

Dr. Porche – Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs: Introduced Dr. Guzick

- Additional comments:
 - Planned name change from School of Allied Health Professionals to School of Health Professions
 - Promotion packets will be routed along the following path:
 - VCAA Porche
 - SVC Guzick
 - Chancellor Dalton

Dr. Guzick - Senior Vice Chancellor for LSU Health New Orleans

- Dr. Guzick spoke candidly to the Senate concerning his recent appointment and about his two day visit to LSUHSC-NO.
- He plans to spend 100% of his time in New Orleans (after completion of a Tuesday, Thursday course in Healthcare Economics on the Baton Rouge campus.
- He met with the Deans on Monday (2/10/2026) and has been impressed by the facilities of the HSC (eg. CALS, MEB renovated labs, HDC).
- He emphasized that this should be considered a **re-organization** rather than a **merger**.

- LSUNSC-NO has always been part of the LSU system and has never been autonomous.
- A goal is to create a State-wide presence in Research by pooling the resources of the five campuses.
- This will hopefully require less of a change with regards to SACSCOC.
- The Leadership of the LSU system will be:
 - President Wade Rouse – focusing outward on fund raising and athletics
 - Chancellor James Dalton – focusing inward on Academics and Research
 - A goal is to provide better access for every student in Louisiana to attend a LSU-system School of the highest quality
 - SVC David Guzick – will focus on the day-to-day aspects of the LSUHSC-NO
- No further changes are immediately planned, Dr. Guzick is in a listening phase.
- Future goals are to expand our Research Profile, by recruiting funded researchers

Dr. Porche – Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs: (Written Report)

- Animal Care- reducing number of temporary employees by advertising for animal tech positions; AALAC accreditation February 25-27, 2026; hired Assistant Director of Animal Care Facilities starting on March 2, 2026
- VCAA, SACSCOC liaison working on prospectus for LSU Merger/Reorganization - to be submitted March 15, 2026, working on correspondent to all specialized accreditation organizations for our LSUHSC-NO programs
- VCAA working with student affairs offices of each school to verify the student organization roster and current bylaws
- SOAH working with LSU A & M on MOU for BSMLS 2.5 + 1.5 program and BS in Cardiopulmonary Science (RT) 2+2 program
- Financial aid preparing for Big Beautiful Bill changes in financial aid loans starting in July
- ORS working in Quali/Cayuse research administration software decisions; working with AAHRPP accreditation; explore structural models for CTO; considering the appointment of IRB co-chair; analyzing workflow for IRB approvals

III. Public Commentary (2 minutes each) - None

IV. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

- Minutes approved in motion by Drs. Gasparini and Lochlan McGee

V. President’s Report (President Cameron)

See appended report

VI. Board of Supervisors Report (Senators Alahari and Dolan)

- No Report

VII. Reports from Assemblies

Staff Senate: (Boutte) –

- No Report

Allied Health:

- No Report

Dentistry:

- February is National Gum Disease / Periodontal Awareness Month ([LSUSD Facebook](#))

Graduate Studies:

- The SGS had a very successful Open House for prospective PhD and MS students, as well as a Mixer with Current Students and Faculty that also included MD/PhD students on February 2nd.
- The Assembly is working on the Qualifying Exam Evaluation draft, to be approved this month.
- The SGA is organizing the following events: Mardi Gras King Cake Extravaganza, Group Rate Pelicans Tickets, Pre-Commencement Brunch (on May 12th).
- Two new programs/tracks are in the pipeline:
 - MS/MD track in Computational Medicine (Dr. Hicks)
 - MS & MS/MD track in Clinical Translational Science (Dr. Rivera)

Medicine:

- No Report

Nursing:

- BSN update
 - Admitting to all three campuses currently, lots of interested applicants across the three campuses
 - Annual evaluations being performed
 - Working to fill positions at the New Orleans and OCIS BR campus in both nursing and basic sciences courses
 - Inaugural white coat ceremony at OCIS BR in January, 33 students received their white coats
- CNS program
 - 4 students beginning clinical this summer
 - Students admitted for Fall 2027 and working to admit for Fall 2027
 - All are on military scholarships
- General
 - Two faculty approved to go up in rank to professor by SON admin council
 - King Cake celebration next week at the SON
 - Ongoing work to revise syllabi to reflect CBE principles, aiming to finalize all syllabi by Fall 2026

Public Health:

- No Report

Library:

- February Information Sessions:
 - Wednesday February 11 – 12pm – Ische Library Room 405 and via Zoom
 - Introduction to RefWorks Citation Management Software
 - Learn the basics of RefWorks, a citation management software offered by LSU Health New Orleans Libraries.
 - Wednesday February 25 – 12pm – Ische Library Room 405 or via Zoom
 - Measurement of Health Literacy
 - This session will introduce popular readability tools and explore the advantages and limitations of different measurements. We will also discuss informal assessments of health literacy that can be used during clinical interactions.
 - This session will be a condensed version that is also being presented by Dr Julie Schiavo, our Dental Librarian, as part of the Network of the National Library of Medicine’s Health Bytes series. The full session will be on Wed February 11. Full details can be accessed here: <https://www.nlm.gov/training/class/measurements-health-literacy>
 - Both Library sessions will be recorded and available on the Library website.
- The Library has renewed our subscription to JoVE (Journal of Visualized Experiments). It provides 1000s of peer-reviewed video demonstrations of lab procedures.
 - We currently subscribe to JoVE Research and JoVE Research Encyclopedia of Experiments.
 - We have trial access to select Education modules for 2026.
 - These include their Clinical Skills Series and their Core Anatomy & Physiology, Core Nursing, and other modules.
- Learn more at our database page for JoVE at <https://www.lsuhs.edu/library/databases/jove.aspx>.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- **Faculty Handbook Committee report (Senator Cameron)**
 - The proposed changes have been submitted to Dr. Porche for review, and ratification by the Council of Deans (per AA-14)
 - Section 10.7 on Scientific and Research Integrity: Reporting and Managing Allegations of Misconduct may need to be removed from the Handbook and incorporated into a new Chancellor’s Memorandum (CM), following national changes to reporting requirements of scientific misconduct to DHHS.
- **Faculty Evaluations Committee report (Senator Lallier)**
 - Plans are underway for the committee to meet with Jane Behlen (Assistant Director, HRIS & Talent/Organizational Development) to discuss the upcoming changes to Faculty Evaluation procedure

IX. New Business –

- **Resolution 26.01 (ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STEVE NELSON)**

- A suggestion was made to move the bullet point on security to the bottom of the list of accomplishments
- The resolution was voted upon and passed unanimously with this modification
- **Resolution 206.02 (ENDORISING TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY IN LEADERSHIP)**
 - This Resolution sparked significant discussion
 - A motion was made to handle this resolution expeditiously recognizing the need for further consideration by the Senate. The following procedure was adopted so that Senators would have time to carefully consider the 2021 HLSUHSC-NO Audit, s well as PM-55.
 - That the Senate Secretary would distribute copies of the 2021 Audit and PM-55 to all Senators, along with a draft copy of the Resolution by Wednesday February 11, 2026
 - That Senators would consider these documents, and contact the President and/or Secretary with suggested changes by Thursday, February 11, 2026
 - That the President/Secretary would incorporate any modifications to the Resolution, and solicit a vote on the Final Resolution
 - That the Final resolution (if approved) would be posted and distributed by Friday, February 13, 2026
 - The motion was approved by the Senate without objection

XI. Adjourn at 4:24

**President's Report
February 2026**

LSU Health – New Orleans Senators and Faculty,

To everything To everything there is a season; the season for change is now upon us.

LSU Transformation Initiative

LSU President Rousse and Chancellor Dalton have begun to execute the plan to synergize LSU Health New Orleans with the other research-intensive institutions in the LSU system. As stated in emails circulated on Thursday February 5 and Friday February 6, LSU leadership elected to replace Dr. Steve Nelson as Senior Vice-Chancellor of LSU Health New Orleans, appointing Dr. David Guzick to the post effective immediately. The Faculty Senate Executive Board moved swiftly to draft two companion resolutions, one registering appreciation to Dr. Nelson for his staunch leadership as Chancellor, and the other emphasizing the faculty's expectations for transparency, accountability and integrity in processes for appointing personnel to key leadership roles at LSU Health New Orleans.

David Guzick, MD, PhD had been serving as the Chief Research Officer of the LSU system under President Tate. He previously served as Chancellor of LSU Health Shreveport and Dean of the School of Medicine there from January 2023 to April 2025. Prior to his resignation from that post amid pressure from a member of the Board of Supervisors, Dr. Guzick was praised for leading the School of Medicine out of probation with the LCME accrediting body. Seventeen Heads of Departments at LSU Health Shreveport signed a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of retaining Dr. Guzick as Chancellor of LSU Health Shreveport. Following his resignation, the Faculty Senate of LSU Health Shreveport adopted Resolution 25-01, commending Dr. Guzick and detailing his many impactful accomplishments.

In terms of the operational aspects of the transformation initiative, a prospectus describing the intent to consolidate the campuses will be submitted to SACSCOC for an April 1 deadline. This is the beginning of the process to secure approval for the plan from SACSCOC. Several committees are being assembled to discuss, negotiate and advise on the details of the transformation initiative. Committees will have representation across all LSU flagship research campuses, as appropriate.

Faculty Handbook Revisions Update

The revisions approved by the Faculty Senate have been submitted to the Office of the VCAA for consideration. Prior to final ratification of the 2026 Handbook, one additional revision is expected. The federal government has revised its guidelines for research misconduct reporting. LSU Health New Orleans is drafting a new Chancellor's Memorandum policy that aligns with the federal guidelines. The CM policy will apply to faculty, staff and students, and it will negate the need for a codified policy in the faculty handbook. It is expected that section 10.7 of the faculty handbook (page 55) will be greatly reduced and will reference the new CM policy. The deadline for certifying compliance with the new federal guidelines is in April 2026.

As always, if you have ideas or suggestions for the Senate, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Faculty can now contact the Senate directly by emailing FacultySenate@lsuhsc.edu.

Jennifer

Jennifer Cameron, Ph.D.
President, Faculty Senate
LSU Health New Orleans